

PROCEEDINGS  
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## NEW BOBWHITE FROM NORTHEASTERN MEXICO.

BY JOHN W. ALDRICH.

The bobwhites of the arid interior of southern Tamaulipas in the intergrading area between the Arid Tropical and Lower Sonoran Life Zones have previously been referred to *Colinus virginianus maculatus*, described by Nelson (The Auk, 16, 1899, p. 26) from Altamira near the coast of extreme southeastern Tamaulipas. However they show marked differences from that form and would better be considered as a distinct race. Sutton and Pettingill (The Auk, 59, 1942, p. 12) commented on certain of these differences in three specimens taken by them in the Gomez Farias region but disposed of the situation by considering them intermediate between *maculatus* and *texanus*. In certain respects this is the case, but the new race is more grayish than either of those subspecies and the greatly reduced reddish pectoral band of the female is in no sense an intermediate character.

*Ortyx graysoni panucensis* Lowe (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 23, 1908, p. 18) was described from a bird taken in the valley of the Panuco River near Tampico. Although the type has not been available to me for comparison it is from a region that is well within the range of *maculatus* and should, therefore, be considered a synonym of that form and therefore unavailable. Inasmuch as there seem to be no other names available I propose to call the interior race:

***Colinus virginianus aridus*, subsp. nov.**

JAUMAVE BOBWHITE.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Colinus virginianus maculatus* Nelson, of southeastern Tamaulipas, northern Veru Cruz, and extreme southeastern San Luis Potosi, but males paler and more grayish, black areas more restricted above, reddish coloration of underparts paler; in females reddish pectoral band almost obsolete. Similar also to *Colinus virginianus texanus*, of southern Texas and northern Tamaulipas, but more grayish, males with

underparts much more extensively reddish as in *maculatus*, females with less pronounced reddish pectoral band. They are so utterly different from *Colinus virginianus graysoni*, from southwestern San Luis Potosi southward that there is no need for comparison.

*Measurements*.—Adult male (9 specimens from Jaumave Valley, Tamaulipas): wing, 104–109.5 (average, 106.8) mm.; tail, 56–65.5 (60.2); exposed culmen, 13–14 (13.8); tarsus, 29–32.5 (30.8); middle toe without claw 25.5–27.5 (26.4). Adult female (4 specimens from Jaumave Valley, Tamaulipas): wing, 104.5–106.5 (105.6); tail, 58–65 (60.8); exposed culmen, 14–14.5 (14.2); tarsus, 29.5–31 (30.3); middle toe without claw, 25.5–28 (26.5).

*Types*.—Adult male, No. 158,456, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey's collection; Jaumave, Tamaulipas; June 3, 1898; E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman; original number 5,508.

*Geographic distribution*.—Ecotone between the Arid Tropical and Lower Sonoran Life Zones from central and central western Tamaulipas south to the northern part of southeastern San Luis Potosi.

The range of this new quail is so far as known at present confined to the arid regions of the interior portion of the coastal plain and valleys of the eastern foothills of the high tableland in northeastern Mexico, which apparently presents ecologically different conditions from either the Lower Sonoran portion of the coastal plain to the northeast south to Cruz and Soto la Marina that is occupied by *C. v. texanus*, and the Arid Tropical portion to the southeast populated by *C. v. maculatus*. E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman in their unpublished field notes on regions within the range of the new form (Jaumave Valley, Forlon, and Valles) in the files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sutton and Pettingill (The Auk, 59, 1942, pp. 2–6) on the Gomez Farias region, speak of the ecologically intermediate condition between the Tropical and Lower Sonoran Life Zones. Nelson and Goldman describe the Jaumave Valley, whence come the type series of this new race, as a very dry valley about 2,000 feet above sea level, separated from Victoria on the coastal plain by a 4,000-foot range of mountains, which forms an outlying portion of the Sierra Madre Cordillera. The bottom of the valley is clothed with mesquite and cactuses along stream courses and Agaves, Optunias, Yuccas, Mimosas, Cassias, Acacias, and other small shrubs on the arid benches. Of particular note was the unusually great abundance of the Agaves.

On the following critical specimens were based the present concepts of the ranges of the three races of *Colinus virginianus* in northeastern Mexico:

*Colinus virginianus maculatus*.—41 specimens including: Alta Mira, southeastern Tamaulipas (type locality), 18 males and 5 females; Tampico, southeastern Tamaulipas, 1 male and 1 female; Hacienda de Naranjo, 30 miles north of Velasco, southeastern Tamaulipas, 5 males and 4 females; Chijol, central northern Vera Cruz, 4 males; Tancanhuitz, southeastern San Luis Potosi, 1 male; Matalpa, near Tamazunchale, southeastern San Luis Potosi, 1 male; El Bonito, 10 miles south of Valles, southeastern San Potosi, 1 male. The Chijol birds average slightly paler than typical *maculatus* but are nearer that form than to anything else.

The Tancanhuitz and Matalpa birds are typical *maculatus*. The single male specimen in the Conover collection from El Bonito, although closer to *maculatus* than any other known race is extremely blackish on the back and in this respect quite distinct from any of the other specimens examined.

*Colinus virginianus aridus*.—43 specimens including: Jaumave Valley, southwestern Tamaulipas (type locality), 9 males and 4 females; Sabinas near Gomez Farias, central southern Tamaulipas, 2 males; El Limon near Gomez Farias, central southern Tamaulipas, 1 male and 1 female; Forlon, central southern Tamaulipas, 1 female; Victoria, west central Tamaulipas, 6 males and 1 female; Rio Cruz, west central Tamaulipas, 4 males and 4 females; Rio Santa Ingracia, west central Tamaulipas, 1 male; Guiaves, central western Tamaulipas, 2 males; Montelunga, central western Tamaulipas, 1 male; Santa Leonor, central western Tamaulipas, 1 male; Mesa de la Angostura near Colonia Mirador, 9 miles northeast of Llera, Tamaulipas, 1 male and 2 females; 8 miles north of Valles, southeastern San Luis Potosi, 1 male. The Gomez Farias and Valles birds are not typical *aridus*, being in some respects intermediate between it and *maculatus*. Specimens from the plains region including Victoria, Rio Cruz, and Rio Santa Ingracia, are intermediate between *aridus* and *texanus*, but average closer to the former, while specimens from Hacienda San Juan 60 miles north of Victoria are closer to *texanus*.

*Colinus virginianus texanus*.—38 specimens including: Brownsville, central southern Texas, 2 males; Rio Grande City, central southern Texas, 1 male; Padre Island, central southern Texas, 1 male and 1 female; Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, central southern Texas, 1 male; Corpus Christi, central southern Texas, 1 male; near former town of Bagdad at mouth of Rio Grande, northeastern Tamaulipas, 1 male and 2 females; Matamoros, northeastern Tamaulipas, 3 males and 1 female; Mier, northwestern Tamaulipas, 1 female; Hacienda San Juan, Cruz, northwest central Tamaulipas, 7 males and 6 females; and Soto la Marina, central eastern Tamaulipas, 6 males and 2 females.

For the use of critical specimens to supplement those in the Biological Survey's collection I am indebted to the authorities of the Field Museum of Natural History, Museum of Comparative Zoology, and Cornell University, and to Mr. H. B. Conover, of Chicago, Illinois. To Major E. A. Goldman of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service I have referred for first-hand information on the physiography and ecology of northeastern Mexico.